

## REMARKS

Careful consideration has been given to the Official Action of October 1, 2002 and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

An Abstract of the disclosure is submitted herewith to comply with 37 CFR 1.72(b).

In order to clearly distinguish the present invention from the cited art, all pending claims in the application have been cancelled without prejudice and replaced by claims 24-31.

These claims emphasize the features by which the top rail forms a junction between an outer skin 11 of the side rail and an outer skin 18 of a roof panel of a freight container. The rail comprises a first web portion 2 for attachment to the outer skin of the side wall, and an inwardly inclined second web portion 3 at a first obtuse angle  $\alpha$  to the first portion and a third web portion 4 extending substantially perpendicular to the first web portion 2 for attachment to the outer skin 18 of the roof panel. The rail is adapted to be welded to at least one of the outer skin of the side panel and the outer skin of the roof panel. The third web portion 4 is inwardly inclined at a second obtuse angle  $\beta$  to the second web portion and is provided with an inwardly extending

return portion 5 at an edge of the third web portion remote from the second web portion for strengthening the top rail and arranged to be embedded in the foam insulation between the inner and outer skins.


The prior art of Fig. 1 has no obtuse angles between the web portions but only right angles therebetween. Furthermore, there is no return portion at the end of the third web portion which is embedded in the foam insulation. In fact, the third web portion extends away from the insulation.

The Hancock patent does show obtuse angles between web portions but lacks the attachment of the web portions to the outer skin and most significantly also lacks a return portion which is embedded in the foam insulation as in the present invention.

Accordingly, the art which has been cited by the Examiner in the rejection of the claims is not pertinent to the invention as now claimed.

Favorable reconsideration is therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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